CASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 5,130 applications were received.

(c) and (d) The Selection Committee is examining the applications and a final review will be done in December this year. Only professionals of proven track record or trained Directors will be empanelled for making sponsored programmes.

(e) The empanelment has been resorted to for improving the quality of serials. It was Doordarshan's experience that previously, a number of persons having no professional background had applied for approval of proposals for Sponsored Programmes.

पूर्वी दिल्ली में राशन कार्यालय का खोला जाना

1052. **श्री सुनील कुमार पट्टनायक :** क्या खाद्य और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दिल्ली के पूर्वी क्षेत्र में गौतमपुरी, जाफराबाद, सीलमपुर और अन्य निकटवर्ती बस्तियों के उचित दर दुकान के वितरकों और निवासियों को मंडल 43 और मंडल 2 तक आने-जाने में बडी कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है क्योंकि ये मंडल इन स्थानों से अत्यन्त दूर स्थित है, जब कि इस प्रकार की सुविधा मंडल पांच के निकट एक अस्थायी शिविर का प्रबन्ध करके प्रदान की जा रही है ;

(ख) क्या सरकार दिल्ली प्रशासन की ओर से एक अस्थायी शिविर का प्रबन्ध करके यह सुविधा प्रदान करने का विचार रखती है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो कब तक और यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

खाद्य और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री डी० एल० बैठा) : (क) से (ग). दिल्ली प्रशासन ने सूचित किया है कि मंडल कार्यालय संख्या 43, जो पहले घोंडा गांव में स्थित था और जाफराबाद तथा गौतमपुरी क्षेत्रों की आवश्यकतायें पूरी कर रहा था, को हटाकर दिल्ली में भजनपुरा क्षेत्र में एक केन्द्रीय रूप मे स्थित स्थान पर ले जाया गया है । मंडल कार्यालय संख्या 2, जो सीलमपुर क्षेत्र की आवश्यकताएं पूरी करता है, शाहदरा के रामनगर क्षेत्र में स्थित है । यह कार्यालय सीलमपुर के पर्याप्त निकट है ।

इस प्रकार इन दोनों मंडल कार्यालयों की अवस्थिति उपभोक्ताओं तथा उचित दर दुकानों के डीलरों के लिए सुविधाजनक है और संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासन फिलहाल अस्थायी शिविर सुविधाएं बनाना आवश्यक नहीं समझता है ।

1053. [Transferred to the 30th November, 1988].

Telecast of Indian History, religion and culture

1054. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether after successful and respondable influence of 'Ramayana' and 'Mahabharata' serials Government propose to telecast T.V. films on Indian History, religion and culture; and

(b) if so, whether Government have asked the Doordarshan to encourage more films on Indian religion to be telecast; if so, whether any such programme is being prepared?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) It has been the endeavour of Doordarshan to telecast programmes highlighting our history, culture, philosophy and literature. The basic objective of serialisation of 'Ramayana' and 'Mahabharata' is to bring to the viewers the literary, aesthetic and ethical aspects of the great epics. This policy shall continue to be pursued.

(b) The policy of the Government is not to encourage religious programmes as such, but at the same time the cultural

manifestations of various religions as reflected in their fairs/festivals etc. are given due coverage on Doordarshan.

Registration of newspapers and periodicals

1055. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Registrar of newspapers of India receive every year over 15000 applications for starting new periodicals and newspapers;

(b) if so, whether half of them are being rejected;

(c) if so, what are the main reasons for their rejection; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that 1.55 lakh titles are unduly blocked by people who are not interested in publishing newspapers under those names if so, the steps being taken by Government to put an end to this programme?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On an average about 15,000 applications for title clearance are received by RNI every year and in about half of the cases titles requested are not found to be available for allotment.

(c) The titles are not cleared in all the cases as the same or similar title stands allotted in favour of others in the same language or in the same State. In some cases, RNI is not able to entertain the applications not submitted in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

(d) Yes, Sir. Over 1.5 lakh titles are blocked. It is proposed to amend the PRB Act, 1867 suitably.

Encouragement to small, medium and vernacular newspapers

1056. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating measures to encourage small, medium and vernacular newspapers;

(b) if so, whether any comprehensive scheme has been prepared in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and how many small newspapers are likely to be benefited by this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) to (c) The Government is committed to the development and growth of small, medium and language newspapers in the country. In pursuance thereof, an 18 member Expert Committee, which includes representtaives of 5 press organisations, has been constituted to look into their problems and make available its recommendations to the Government. The vernacular newspapers fall mostly in the category of small and medium newspapers.

Revival of the master plan for 8 cities in Madhya Pradesh

1057. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Madhya Pradesh has been asked by the Central Government to revive the master plans for 8 cities;

(b) if so, whether the State Government have also decided to make available maximum amount to development authorities and other development agencies under the Urban Land and Regulation Act; and

(c) if so, what are the 8 cities in Madhya Pradesh for which the master plan have been reviewed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.